

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

Congratulations on a successful first few weeks in office. We write to you today to urge the expeditious nomination of an Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. This position, which has recently been elevated to the role of Ambassador by Congress, was left empty for too long under the previous administration. However, strong leadership in this office is critical to the safety and security of Jewish communities around the world, and key to our commitment to protect international religious freedom.

Violence inspired by anti-Semitism is an everyday concern for Jewish families, who must weigh the decision to freely practice their Judaism against the risk of violence that these rituals can invite. With threats of anti-Semitism increasing every year, strong American leadership is required to address them.

Worldwide, major violent cases of anti-Semitism increased by 18 percent in 2019 as compared to 2018; at least 53 synagogues and 28 community centers and schools were attacked. Furthermore, 41 percent of Jews ages 16-34 have considered leaving the European Union in the previous five years for fear of their safety.^[1] Since then, COVID-19 has also sparked a resurgence of ancient tropes that blame Jews, among other minorities, for the spread of the pandemic. Left unchecked, these conspiracy theories can lead to increased anti-Semitism.

Here in Washington D.C., we were reminded of the increasingly pervasive and overt impacts of anti-Semitism on January 6th as rioters invaded the Capitol, including one wearing a sweatshirt that read “Camp Auschwitz” as well as the participation of known members of several hateful extremist groups. We know that you have a deep understanding of the impact of anti-Semitism, and ask that you quickly nominate a qualified Ambassador for this critical role.

We look forward to working with your administration to rebuild America’s role in the world and to protect religious freedom around the world. We would deeply appreciate your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/ Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

/s/ Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

/s/ Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Val Demings
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathy Manning
Member of Congress

/s/ Dean Phillips
Member of Congress

/s/ Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/ Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

/s/ Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

/s/ Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

/s/ Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

/s/ Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

/s/ Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

/s/ Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

/s/ Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress

/s/ Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

/s/ Ed Case
Member of Congress

/s/ Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

/s/ Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/ Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

/s/ Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

/s/ Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

/s/ Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Andy Kim
Member of Congress

/s/ Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

/s/ David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/ David E. Price
Member of Congress

CC:
Secretary Antony J. Blinken

[1] [Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism](#)